

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

AUGUST 18, 2009

Request for Special Investigation of Children's Deaths

The death of any child is a tragedy. Dae'von Bailey's death was particularly tragic in that the circumstances of his death suggest that it might have been preventable. Now another child, Jasmine Granados, has died in a family that had prior involvement with County agencies. The County of L.A. must do everything it can to determine what happened in these cases, and what lessons can be learned from these tragic events. To that end, it is necessary to gather and analyze all the facts and circumstances contributing to these children's deaths, including the death of Lars Sanchez. While there will be a Children's Special Investigations Unit with a Lead Attorney and support staff in the near future, **we cannot wait**. There is a critical and immediate need for an independent investigation to closely scrutinize all contributing factors, including how DCFS and other involved agencies processed these cases.

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MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AUGUST 18, 2009
PAGE 2**

THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Auditor-Controller, Office of County Investigations, in coordination with the District Attorney and the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), to immediately conduct an independent special investigation into the deaths of Dae'von Bailey, Jasmine Granados and Lars Sanchez. This investigation should include:

1. Access to all relevant information in the possession of all County agencies, and private agencies that have contracts with the County, including but not limited to health, mental health, social services, child care, education, law enforcement and probation. Any and all information disclosed shall be kept confidential and not re-disclosed other than in a confidential report to the Board of Supervisors.
2. In-person interviews of all witnesses with personal knowledge of any facts and circumstances relevant to the deaths of these children. Any statements of such witnesses shall be kept confidential and not disclosed other than in a confidential report to the Board of Supervisors.
3. In-person interviews with leadership personnel in the DCFS, health care providers, law enforcement agencies, and any other entities that had significant contact with these children and/or their families prior to their deaths, to discuss safeguards and procedures currently in place to identify and follow up on indications that a child is at risk of abuse or neglect, and additional safeguards

- MORE -

and procedures that might have resulted in more effective intervention in these

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AUGUST 18, 2009
PAGE 3

children's cases. Any statements made by such personnel shall be kept confidential and not disclosed other than in a confidential report to the Board of Supervisors.

4. Analysis of the information collected, and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors within 45 days, including action steps to reduce the future risk of preventable child deaths due to abuse or neglect and to ensure these deaths do not continue to occur in Los Angeles County.
5. In the event that the Lead Attorney of the Children's Special Investigation Unit (CSIU) is hired, and the CSIU is operational, prior to the date this report is due, the Auditor-Controller shall coordinate the completion of this investigation with the CSIU.

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